ing network to assist the Sheriff's department in times of civil unrest or natural disaster. As mayor, Peter Weber helped to establish the city's Economic Development Commission to enhance the city's commercial area. These agencies will help to ensure the future safety, success, and stability of Rolling Hills Estates.

Peter Weber will always hold a place in the hearts of the citizens of Rolling Hills Estates. I am proud to join them in extending sincere admiration and appreciation to Peter and his family.

''INVENTORS OF THE YEAR''

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's efforts against AIDS have taken a major step forward with the development of a new class of antiretroviral drugs known as protease inhibitors. One of the corporate leaders in this field is Abbott Laboratories, which is headquartered in my district.

Recently, some of the scientists at Abbott responsible for this pharmacological breakthrough were named ''Inventors of the Year'' by the Intellectual Property Law Association, and the National Intellectual Property Owners Association. They are Dale J. Kempf, Ph.D., Daniel W. Norbeck, Ph.D., Hing L. Sham, Ph.D., and Chen Zhao, Ph.D. I join with these organizations in strongly commending their efforts.

The Abbott protease inhibitor, NORVIR, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in March 1996 in one of the fastest pharmaceutical approvals ever issued by that agency. This drug, like other protease inhibitors, prevents the human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] protease enzyme from carrying out its essential tasks during viral maturation and reproduction. For this reason, protease inhibitors have been found to provide significant anti-viral activity when used with other anti-HIV drugs in combinations known as cocktails.

Since their introduction, numerous studies have demonstrated that protease inhibitors, in combination with other drugs, were able to reduce the level of circulating HIV to less than currently detectable concentrations in some patients. There is also hope that the emergence of drug resistant HIV strains will be more hindered with protease inhibitor treatment as compared to the level of inhibition known to occur with older drugs. Both the scientific and popular press have hailed the development of protease inhibitors as one of the most important scientific breakthroughs of the decade.

Mr. Speaker, it is in this context that I rise to recognize these national heroes for their very significant contributions to our Nation's war against the disease known as AIDS.

PATHFINDER

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following editorial supporting the Pathfinder mission which appeared in the Lincoln Journal Star on July 7, 1997.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, July 7, 1997]

PATHFINDER MISSION EXAMPLE OF FEDERAL FUNDS WELL SPENT

The Web site operated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is logging as many as 40 million hits a day as the six-wheeled Sojourner rover explores the surface of Mars.

There's a bit of irony in the statistic.

Many of the cybersurfers hitting the site are using computers with more brains than the rover itself. Sojourner has a mere 8,500 transistors in its brain, compared with millions in the Pentium models. The vehicle's designers were on a tight budget.

Spending for the U.S. interplanetary space program in the 1990s contrasts sharply with the Viking missions of the 1970s. Those missions cost $3 billion in today's dollars. The Mars Pathfinder mission's cost is pegged at $266 million.

It's money well spent.

Humanity has an inherent need to push into the unknown. It's biologically wired into our makeup. Evidence abounds, from the migration of humans across the Bering land bridge into North America to the curiosity of children exploring a new campground.

Humans have been fascinated with Mars since Cro-Magnon tribes watched the movement of the night sky's only red object. When the medieval invention of telescopes revealed lines on the planet's surface, theories sprang that they were a system of canals.

Today, the fascination with extraterrestrial matters borders on the obsessive. The popular television show'' File'' is based on a premise that aliens are among us; last summer's megahit movie ''Independence Day'' was about an alien invasion. Roswell, N.M., has turned into a tourist destination because of rumors that aliens landed there 50 years ago.

The question is not whether humans will spend money because of their fascination with space. They already are plunking down dollars for books, movies and travel about the subject.

Spending tax dollars in pursuit of facts on the subject is a far better use of society's resources. The imagination of authors and filmmakers are diverting entertainment. At a deeper level, however, people want scientific fact, not unsubstantiated storytelling.

When man landed on the moon in 1969, the popularity of the space program and NASA was at an all-time high. From that high point, public support declined. NASA's reputation plummeted because of the Challenger explosion. Pressure built to reduce the program's bloated expenses.

The low-budget, unpiloted Pathfinder mission is the result. When Daniel S. Goldstein was appointed NASA director in 1992, he approved a low-cost plan developed by Donna L. Shirley, who now heads the Mars exploration program at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

Shirley has been a proponent of finding low-cost ways to explore Mars since the 1980s, when she headed a panel that said if the dream of exploration were to become a reality, ways had to be found to do it on the cheap.

Now her dreams are being realized. They are dreams shared universally by people across the globe. Finally, there may be answers to questions that have existed since prehistoric humans watched the red planet dance across the night sky.

Funding the Pathfinder mission to Mars is a worthwhile use of tax dollars.

TRIBUTE TO HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 926TH ENGINEER GROUP, USAR

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring to the attention of the House, the accomplishments of a fine group of dedicated citizens that serve in both a military and civilian capacity in this great Nation. I am pleased to inform you that the Headquarters and Headquarters Company 926th Engineer Group, U.S. Army Reserve [USAR], Montgomery, AL, received the company size unit award for the training year, 1996. The group was presented the award at the ROA National Convention in Kansas City on June 21, 1997.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 926th Engineer Group was selected from hundreds of Army Reserve companies across America, based on stringent criteria of readiness, training, drill attendance, and personnel strength. The 926th Engineer Group has conducted, in a superior manner, a meaningful and effective training program throughout the training year. They have demonstrated to the highest degree, the ability to accomplish their wartime mission.

As a member of the Committee on National Security, promoting strong national defense, I wish to congratulate Cap. Joseph K. Roberts, company commander, and all the members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 926th Engineer Group from my congressional district for their achievements and adherence to the highest standards.